

Northeast Valley Coalition Against Methamphetamine Steering Committee Meeting Summary June 21, 2007

In attendance: Tom Ellis, Gina Durbin, Mary Ellen Tinsley, Phil Riccio, Chief Jesse Delmar (for Jarvis Qumyintewa),

Facilitators: Brent Stockwell, Karen Kurtz, Valerie Kime Trujillo

Absent: Donald Santeo, Stephanie Kreiling, Jarvis Qumyintewa, Kate Zanon

Guest: Tonya Brown, Governor's Office

1. Review 2007 Progress Report

Brent Stockwell presented a document that describes the history of the NE Valley coalition, the funding, the key points from the strategic plan, and contact information. It is presented in text format and simple readable language that is intended to inform the general public and elected officials about the work of the coalition. Steering committee members offered minor text changes and adopted the corrected version for the coalition. Brent will make the changes, post the document to the website, and a copy to the elected officials representing all of the coalition communities.

2. Discussion About Anti-Meth Initiative with Tonya Brown

Brent introduced Tonya Brown from the Governor's Office. Tonya discussed *A Plan for Action: Addressing the Methamphetamine Crisis in Arizona*. This plan came out of the work of the Governor's Task Force on Methamphetamine. There are ten priority recommendations and a total of 23 recommendations adopted by the Task Force. The Governor will receive a progress report on the ten priority recommendations every 90 days. The Task Force will hold their next meeting in Phoenix on June 27th and steering committee members are welcome to attend.

Tonya is working with coalitions across the State to complete their strategic plans and begin implementation. The State extended the period until the end of this month for some coalitions to revise their applications. She stressed that the Phase II funds have few restrictions except that no more than \$3,000 can be used for media campaigns. At this point, the Governor's Office expects that there will be Phase III funding available for coalitions next year; however the amount is unknown. At some point over the next few months, the Governor's Office will be bringing all the coalitions together for one meeting to review progress across Arizona.

Two of the NE Coalition's goal areas fit within the ten priority recommendations: youth and resource directory. The committee pointed out that the top ten didn't seem to emphasize environmental prevention strategies as much and that was supposed to be the main emphasis for the coalitions. The NE Coalition's crime impacts subcommittee focuses on the non-drug user as someone who bears the burden of drug use in our communities. The committee suggested that Tonya emphasize to the Task Force that there are no minor crimes in communities and that this message does not seem to be getting through to legislators and police departments. By educating our residents how to avoid burglary and identity theft, they are making it more difficult to fund their meth habits. The committee also emphasized the need for partnerships and collaboration. Everyone wants to address the problem, but the efforts have to be coordinated.

The steering committee asked about the difference between the Governor's Anti-Meth Initiative and the Arizona Meth Project. Tonya explained that the Arizona Meth Project is a project of the Attorney General's Office and ten Arizona counties that is patterned after the Montana Meth Project. It is a media campaign to raise awareness about meth and its impacts on users. Every county received funding from the legislature to address meth in their counties. Ten of the 15 counties decided to contribute all or a portion of their funds to the Arizona Meth Project. Five counties had other uses such as more treatment or education in schools. The Governor's Office took a different approach to the issue. Funds were awarded through the Parents Commission to complete a needs assessment through 22 coalitions. The coalitions were asked to develop a plan base on their needs assessment and were awarded funds in Phase II to implement their plans. The coalitions funded through the Governor's Office are listed on the Arizona Meth Project website. Brent said the project has generated a number of calls from people in the community I response to the ads.

The committee did not see these two efforts in competition, but saw them as complementary. Many more people can be reached through a mass media campaign. The coalitions are working at the local level to bring people to action and make real changes in their communities.

Tonya also invited steering committee members to attend the Navajo Nation's Tribal Leaders Summit on June 29th. Last year the event attracted 600-1,000 participants. The Navajo Nation is in need of facilitators for the event.

3. Review Subcommittee Progress/Status Update/ID Theft Publication

All three subcommittees will be meeting on Tuesday, June 26th. The meeting times and locations are listed on the website. Brent reminded subcommittee chairs to send out notices to the people that signed up for their committees. The Resource Subcommittee has met once and developed a plan of how to proceed for creating the resource guide. Valerie and Karen stressed that the task was not as simple as it first looked so be prepared to really discuss in detail. Brent reminded everyone to send the meeting minutes to him as soon as possible so he could follow up if there were issues. For example, the Resource Subcommittee identified a legal liability issue that Brent was able to follow up on and get an answer back from the city.

The committee also reviewed a draft flyer on tips to prevent identity theft that will be reviewed by the crime subcommittee at their meeting Tuesday. The committee responded favorably to the publication.

4. Review Upcoming Coalition Calendar

Brent pointed out that the focus of the coalition's work is shifting from the large community meetings to the subcommittees. On the calendar, the steering committee is scheduled to meet every month (except July and December) and the community workshops are reduced to once a quarter. Two community workshops have already been completed. This means it is even more important to keep people engaged through the subcommittees.

5. Discuss Request from Leonard Meurer

Brent presented a request from a therapist in Tempe interested in presenting to the coalition. The committee discussed the request and decided that it would be best to invite Mr. Meurer to participate in the coalition as a member of the one of the subcommittees and make his contribution to the coalition's efforts in this way.

6. Continued Discussion on Coalition Organization and Leadership

Brent stated that no one had accepted the position of Steering Committee Chair. At this point, he is looking for someone to nominate his or herself for the position. If no one on the Steering Committee was interested, we may have to look at the group of people regularly participating in the coalition for possible candidates. We have to get this position filled because one of the charges for the next phase of the process is to talk about sustainability of the coalition, both long term and short term.

Karen stated that we might want to have a discussion about the job itself and may have to include more mentoring from Brent for to get someone to take the job. The job mostly entails setting agendas, keeping in touch with subcommittees and running meetings.

Phil suggested that we create a job description for the steering committee chair and put it out on the web to see if we could generate interest.

Karen also suggested that we might want to revisit the decision not to fill the two vacant steering committee positions. The meetings get small if one or two people can't make it.

Brent said when he sends out the letter with the coalition progress report, he will ask for names of people interested in serving on the steering committee. At the meeting on August 23rd, the steering committee will discuss any names brought forward and at the September 27th meeting the coalition can vote on any possible additions to the steering committee.

7. Next Meeting

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 23, 2007 at the Paiute Neighborhood Center from 9 – 10:30 a.m.